

The modern Brookline Police Department can trace its roots back to the appointment of John Kenerick as constable of the village of Muddy River in 1652. When Muddy River became the Town of Brookline in 1705 Peter Boylston became it's first constable. As the town grew and expanded so did its police department. Originally, officers were charged with such duties as `seeing to the proper roping and ringing of swine', fence viewing, and enforcement of liquor laws.

As technology increased, the department moved from foot patrol to mounted patrol to the use of radio- and computer-equipped police cruisers. In addition to law enforcement services, officers provide first aid, animal control services, and public safety information. The entire department was awarded a special commendation by the Board of Selectmen in recognition for it's performance during the `Blizzard of 78'. Many special programs have evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of the Town. These include the Auxiliary Police force (established in part to deal with the shortage of manpower caused by WWII), the AWARE program in the schools, the Walk and Talk program, the Citizen's Police Academy, the Domestic Violence Unit, the CERT and the Youth Diversionary Program.



Today, the Brookline Police Department has a sworn force of 132 officers providing 24 hour service to th

In Memoriam

Two Brookline police officers have given their lives in the performance of their duties. To learn more about these two officers, view Detective Kenneth McHugh's presentation to the Brookline Historical Society at: <http://www.brooklinehistoricalsociety.org/events/McHugh/McHugh.asp>

The first was Officer Joseph McMurray, who was shot and killed on October 17, 1904 while responding to a call for help on Boylston Street. He found a man inside a locked apartment who had just killed his wife. When he forced his way into the apartment, he was shot by the husband. In an ironic twist of fate, the shooter was a man Officer McMurray had saved from drowning just three years earlier.



Officer Joseph P. O'Brien was the second Brookline patrolman to die in the line of duty. He was shot and killed on August 3, 1930 while patrolling in the lower Beacon Street area.

Commemorative plaques placed outside the police station honor both Officer McMurray and Officer O'Brien.

